



## Richard Pombo – The Leading Opponent of Animal Welfare in the U.S. Congress

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U.S. Rep. Richard Pombo (R-CA-11<sup>th</sup>) has become a career politician, he's used taxpayer dollars to finance his family trips, and he's even allowed industry to fund his junkets across the globe. *He is also the leading opponent of animal welfare issues in Congress.* It's hard to believe any lawmaker could support the practices enumerated below, but it is all documented in the Congressional Record.

- ❖ He's voted against funding for enforcement of laws to combat illegal dogfighting and cockfighting, and he's voted to continue the slaughter of America's horses so they can be shipped overseas for human consumption by the French and Japanese.
- ❖ He's supported taxpayer subsidies for trophy hunting of African elephants and the mink coat industry.
- ❖ He's voted to support the continuation of cruel and unsporting practices such as bear baiting and the use of steel-jawed leghold traps on National Wildlife Refuges and other federal lands. He even wants to open our National Parks to hunting and trapping.
- ❖ He's voted to allow sick and injured livestock to be dragged with chains and pushed into slaughterhouses with bulldozers for human consumption. Processing these "downer" livestock is also a tremendous threat to public health, since these animals are far more likely to carry Mad Cow Disease and other risks to our food supply.
- ❖ He's even advocated for supporting the resumption of commercial whaling.

### Protecting Dogfighters, Cockfighters, and Horse Slaughterers

**Pombo opposed funding to enforce federal laws against dogfighting and cockfighting.** He opposed the Animal Fighting amendment, offered by Reps. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Tom Tancredo (R-CO), to H.R. 2673, the 2004 Agriculture Appropriations bill, to provide \$800,000 for USDA's Inspector General to improve enforcement of the federal laws to combat animal fighting (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll355.xml> - July 14, 2003).

**Pombo backs the slaughter of American horses for human consumption.** He opposed an amendment to halt horse slaughter for food exports, offered by Reps. John Sweeney (R-NY), John Spratt (D-SC), Nick Rahall (D-WV), and Ed Whitfield (R-KY), to H.R. 2744, the 2006 Agriculture Appropriations bill (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll233.xml> - June 8, 2005).

Pombo also opposed a wild horse protection amendment offered by Reps. Rahall and Whitfield to H.R. 2361, the 2006 Interior Appropriations bill (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2005/roll196.xml> - May 19, 2005). And he voted against H.R. 503, the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2006/roll433.xml> - September 7, 2006). Ironically, California voters outlawed horse slaughter for human consumption by ballot initiative in November 1998.

## **Spending Taxpayer Dollars on Animal Abuse**

**Pombo opposed an amendment to end a multi-million dollar subsidy for the luxury mink coat industry.** He opposed an amendment, offered by Reps. Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Peter Deutsch (D-FL), to H.R. 1976, the 1996 Agriculture Appropriations bill, to eliminate a \$2 million dollar subsidy given to the mink industry to promote fur coats overseas (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1995/roll553.xml> - July 21, 1995).

**Pombo backs taxpayer subsidies to promote the trophy hunting of African elephants.** He opposed an amendment, offered by Reps. Jon Fox (R-PA) and George Miller (D-CA), to H.R. 2159, the 1998 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, to bar the use of taxpayer funds for a U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) program that promotes trophy hunting of elephants and the trade in ivory in Zimbabwe. The amendment failed 159-267 (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1997/roll359.xml> - September 4, 1997). Pombo has also publicly advocated for the resumption of the ivory trade – even traveling to Zimbabwe to publicly support an overturning of the U.S. ban on ivory imports.

**Pombo has backed a series of amendments to provide millions in taxpayers dollars to kill wildlife on our public lands as a subsidy for ranchers, timber companies, and other resource users.** He opposed amendments, offered to a series of Agriculture spending bills to halt funding for lethal predator control by the government. The prohibitions did not bar ranchers and others from using their private resources to conduct predator killing, but would have stopped the government funding for these practices (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2000/roll382.xml> - July 11, 2000; <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1999/roll172.xml> - June 8, 1999; <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1998/roll259.xml> - June 23, 1998; <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1998/roll263.xml> - June 24, 1998).

## **Allowing Unethical Hunters to Kill Wildlife on our Public Lands**

**Pombo promotes killing the bison of Yellowstone National Park.** He opposed an amendment, offered by Rep. Nick Rahall (D-WV), to H.R. 2691, the 2004 Interior Appropriations bill, to protect Yellowstone's unique and majestic bison – also known as buffalo – on our public lands. This amendment would have stopped the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service from assisting in the slaughter of bison (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll383.xml> - July 17, 2003). He opposed a similar amendment from Reps. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and Charles Bass (R-NY) to H.R. 4568, the 2005 Interior Appropriations bill (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2004/roll261.xml> - June 17, 2004).

**Pombo promotes the use of steel-jawed leghold traps and wire neck snares on National Wildlife Refuges.** He voted against an amendment, offered by Reps. Sam Farr (D-CA) and Ed Whitfield (R-KY), to H.R. 2466, the 2000 Interior Appropriations bill, to ban the use of steel-jawed leghold traps and strangling snares for commerce or recreation in National Wildlife Refuges. This vote was cast just months after California voters had overwhelmingly approved Proposition 4, which banned these same traps throughout the entire state (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1999/roll291.xml> - July 14, 1999).

**Pombo supports the unethical and unsporting practice of bear baiting on our federal lands.** He opposed an amendment, offered by Reps. Elton Gallegly (R-CA) and Jim Moran (D-VA), to H.R. 2691, the 2004 Interior Appropriations bill, to halt bear baiting on federal lands. Trophy hunters shoot bears gorging on piles of smelly food left out by hunters. Allowing the bait sites also contradicts the policy of federal land managers not to leave out food for bears (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll382.xml> - July 17, 2003).

**Pombo supports sport hunting in our National Parks.** He supported an amendment to H.R. 518, the California Desert Protection Act, offered by Rep. Larry LaRocco (D-ID), to stipulate that hunting and trapping be allowed in the proposed Mojave National Park (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1994/roll316.xml> - July 12, 1994).

## **Dragging Sick and Injured Livestock into Slaughterhouses for Human Consumption**

**Pombo supported allowing “downer” livestock into the food supply.** He voted against an amendment, offered by Reps. Gary Ackerman (D-NY) and Steve LaTourette (R-OH), to H.R. 2673, the 2004 Agriculture Appropriations bill, that would have provided protections for the small number of animals going to slaughter that are so injured or sick that they become “downers” – livestock too sick or injured to stand or walk. These animals are often bulldozed or dragged with chains to get them to slaughter. The amendment would have kept these animals – who have a higher risk of carrying Mad Cow Disease – out of the human food chain and would have promoted the humane euthanasia of these suffering animals (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2003/roll357.xml> - July 14, 2003).

## **Killing Whales, Seals, Dolphins, and Polar Bears**

**Pombo has backed the commercial tuna fishing industry’s demand to set deadly purse seine nets on dolphins.** He supported H.R. 408, introduced by Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD), to weaken protections for dolphins by lifting the embargo on dolphin deadly tuna – caught by chasing, encircling, and capturing dolphins with purse seine nets (<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1997/roll151.xml> - May 21, 1997). Pombo also opposed an amendment, offered by Rep. George Miller (D-CA), to the 2000 CJS Appropriations bill, to limit funding for the international tuna fishing convention that sanctions the use of dolphin deadly nets in their tuna fishing operations. Since the 1950s, more than seven million dolphins have drowned in the deadly purse seine nets set on them by commercial tuna fishing fleets

(<http://clerk.house.gov/evs/1999/roll382.xml> - August 5, 1999).

**Pombo supported amending the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow trophy hunters to import polar bear trophies into the United States.** He opposed an amendment, offered in the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee to restore a ban on the import of polar bear trophies under the Marine Mammal Protection Act – (March 16, 1994). And a decade later, he helped negotiate for language in the 2004 Interior Appropriations bill to allow trophy hunters to import dead polar bears they had killed in Canada

([http://www.signonsandiego.com/sports/20040104-9999\\_1s4outdoors.html](http://www.signonsandiego.com/sports/20040104-9999_1s4outdoors.html) - January 4, 2004).

**Pombo wants to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow the import of seal skins into the United States.** Under the popular Marine Mammal Protection Act, the U.S. has banned the import of fur from clubbed seals in Canada and other nations.

**Pombo backs a resumption of commercial whaling by Japan and Norway.** The U.S. has long opposed commercial whaling. Pombo is the only lawmaker in recent history to advocate a resumption of commercial whaling.

### **Pombo in His Own Words**

“If the scientific evidence supports consumptive use of a renewable resource that provides food, economic, cultural and religious benefit to people, it should be permitted regardless of whether the subject species is an elephant, a plant, a tree or a whale.” (Congressional Record – June 11, 1998.)

“I applaud the efforts of AFA (Alliance For America) and I truly believe they do make a positive difference in our society.” From a statement in support of two resolutions passed by a radical coalition of trappers, hunters, ranchers and other consumptive users, supporting the resumption of whaling and import of seal products. (Congressional Record – July 19, 2001.)

“I believe the time has come for the United States to truly reflect an international commitment to the sustainable use of renewable wildlife and marine resources based on science...I know the United States is certainly a nation that supports the consumptive use of renewable wildlife and marine resources under scientific management.” From a letter sent to the Secretaries of State, Interior, and Commerce, admonishing U.S. delegates at several international conventions for opposing whaling and for supporting the establishment of a whale sanctuary. (Congressional Record – May 22, 2001.)

*Richard Pombo has sided with special interests who want to exploit animals for their greed and private gain. He is out of touch with the values of Californians who support the humane treatment of animals and oppose needless animal cruelty and taxpayer subsidies for inhumane industries.*